

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enabling an end-user to locally process content information at a quality level remotely adjustable by a service provider.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the end-user receives a higher quality in return for a higher fee.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the quality is adjustable via a data network.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the end-user has an apparatus for the local processing that is connectable to the data network for the remote adjusting.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
  - the local processing comprises playing out of the content information; and
  - the quality level of the playing out is remotely adjustable by the service provider.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein:
  - the content information comprises video data;
  - the quality level relates to at least one of a color depth and a resolution of the video data when rendered.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein:
  - the local processing comprises locally storing the content information; and
  - the quality of the storing is remotely adjustable by the service provider.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the adjusting of the quality of the storing comprises regulating a storage capacity available to the end-user.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the regulating of the storage capacity comprises providing end-user access to a selected portion of a local storage.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

- the local storage comprises a HDD; and
- the storage capacity is regulated by controlling a mechanical component of the HDD.

5 11. The method of claim 9, wherein:

- the local storage comprises a solid state memory; and
- the storage capacity is regulated by controlling an address range of the memory.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein:

- 10
- the local storage comprises an ODD; and
  - the storage capacity is regulated by controlling a mechanical component of the ODD.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the regulating of the storage capacity comprises controlling a data format of the content information during the storing.

15

14. A CE apparatus for processing content information, wherein:

- the apparatus enables a user to select a specific one of multiple quality levels of the processing; and
- the apparatus comprises a controller for setting the specific quality level in responsive to a signal supplied by a third party.

20

15. The apparatus of claim 14, comprising an input for receiving the signal from a server via a data network

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

- 25
- the processing comprises user-controllable recording of the information content;
  - the apparatus comprises a storage for the recording;
  - the specific quality level determines a specific storage capacity available to the user; and
  - the controller is coupled to the storage for setting the specific storage capacity under control of the signal.

30

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the storage comprises at least one of: a HDD, an ODD and a

solid state memory.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

- the processing comprises playing out the content information;
- 5 - the apparatus comprises a circuit for rendering the content information;
- the controller is coupled to the data rendering circuit for setting the specific quality of the rendering under control of the signal.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

- 10 - the content information comprises video data;
- the specific quality determines at least one of a resolution of the rendered content information and a color depth of the rendered content information.

20. A method of doing business comprising remotely modifying a quality of a functionality of a CE

- 15 apparatus of an end-user through software control via a data network.